

REMARKS

A personal interview with the Examiner in charge of the present application, Mr. Gilbert Lee, and his supervisor, Mr. Vishal Patel, was conducted by applicant's undersigned representative on July 15, 2008. During the interview, possible structural limitations to be added to the claims of the present application to distinguish over the Dickey et al. reference, U.S. Patent No. 6,189,896 ("Dickey") (the reference used by Mr. Lee in the Action of February 20, 2008, to reject the claims of the application) were discussed. Claim 1 has been amended to include certain of the possible limitations discussed during the interview as explained below.

Regarding the results of the interview, applicant's undersigned representative believes that it is correct to state that Mr. Lee and Mr. Vishal Patel agreed that the structure of the seal ring of the present invention is different from the structure of the seal ring of Dickey. However, the Examiners believe that the claims (prior to the amendments made herein) can be properly interpreted as reading on the seal ring of Dickey.

A first possibility for claim amendments that was discussed during the interview is to define the seal ring of the present invention as having a front (outer) face, a back (inner) face, and

side faces between the outer and inner faces, and first and second inclined faces extending continuously from a side face to the inner face. It was the understanding that amending the claims of application according to this first possibility would distinguish the claims over Dickey. In Dickey, as seen in Fig. 2, the inclined surfaces do not extend continuously to the back (inner) face.

Claim 1 has been amended according to this first possibility.

As explained in the specification of the present application (see, for example, page 9, lines 12-26), by providing the first deepest inclined face and a second inclined face extending continuously from a side face to an inner circumferential face of the seal ring in combination with the other features of the seal ring as recited in the claims, a contact position at which the seal ring comes into contact with the ring groove can be arranged outer in the radial direction as compared with a conventional seal ring, even if the ring groove broadens outward. Such advantage is neither disclosed nor suggested by Dickey.

Claim 1 has also been amended to change the terminology "first deepest inclined portion" to --first deepest inclined face--. This change has been made because, as noted by Mr. Patel during the interview, the term "portion" is not precise and, therefore, is capable of a broad interpretation.

The remaining claims have been amended for consistency with the claim terminology of amended claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that Dickey fails to disclose a seal ring including each of the elements of claim 1 as amended (and the claims dependent on claim 1) and, therefore, does not support a case of anticipation of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and that Dickey fails to disclose or suggest the advantageous properties of the seal ring of the present invention as recited in the claims and, therefore, does not support a case of prima facie obviousness of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Removal of the rejections of the claims and issuance of a notice of allowability of the claims are believed to be in order and are respectfully solicited.

The foregoing is believed to be a complete and proper response to the Office Action dated February 20, 2008, and is believed to place this application in condition for allowance. If, however, minor issues remain that can be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to resolve the issues.

In the event that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of

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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

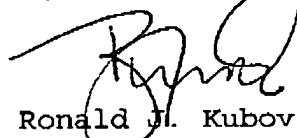
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time. The fee for any such extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 111833.

In the event any additional fees are required, please also charge our Deposit Account No. 111833.

Respectfully submitted,

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